Every day, almost fifty children are diagnosed with cancer, and seven will die as a result of it. Every day.

After watching a young loved one suffer and pass away from this horrible disease, Juniors Lindsay Kunik and Holly Walsh decided to take a stand. They have since then began their own nonprofit organization, Butterfly Kisses Care Baskets. These girls didn’t just settle for a small organization, either.

“We’re a real thing,” said Holly. “We have a lawyer and pay taxes and everything.”

But what does Butterfly Kisses do?

“We try to bring joy to children that are suffering from cancer or another terminal illness,” Lindsay said. “We started in 2009 and make care baskets for those kids with things to make them happy, as well as raise money to help fund research for new treatments.”

Butterfly Kisses all started with an eight year old girl named Ellie, who inspired Lindsay and Holly to become proactive. After struggling with a rare form of cancer, Ellie passed away in June of 2010. This young, brave girl continues to be the driving force behind the organization. Lindsay even wears a necklace with Ellie’s name engraved on a heart-shaped pendent in remembrance of her.

“I remember walking out of her funeral, and realizing that I couldn’t not have anyone to focus on,” Holly said. “I knew that I had to help more kids like her. She pointed us in the direction of other kids in need.”

And help they did. Since starting, Lindsay and Holly have gone from helping one child with nothing but babysitting money to being involved with over 36 families, and an accredited 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. In addition, they also gift care baskets to the siblings of the sick kids, not wanting them to feel forgotten.

In order to fund their mission, they accept donations and sell rubber bracelets, similar to the yellow Livestrong bands from the Lance Armstrong Foundation.

“We’re also planning a drive later this year,” Lindsay said. “It will benefit us, and a foundation to conduct research for treatments and cures. We don’t know which one yet, but it will be one that will use the money specifically for that reason.”

In addition to raising money, Butterfly Kisses also hopes to raise awareness of childhood cancer, and has done so through the bracelets and social media.

“We’re pretty easy to find. You can go to www.butterflykissescarebasket.com, and there, we have links to our Facebook and Twitter accounts,” said Lindsay.

Looks like the effort of spreading the word has worked.

“We have a lot of people in the US—even in California—that send us letters and stuff,” said Holly. “We have way more support than I ever thought. We’ve even been in the Charlotte Observer twice.”

So what’s next for Butterfly Kisses?

“We want to hopefully continue to reach to more kids, and help more on the medical aspect,” said Lindsay. “We need to grow bigger to make a big difference, and to make our donations substantial, because there hasn’t been a new treatment developed in almost 32 years.”

Holly has high hopes for the organization as well.

“One day, we’re going to be on Ellen,” she joked. “We wanted to do Oprah, but now she’s done, so that probably won't happen.”

From the looks of it, Butterfly Kisses won't be disappearing anytime soon. Since they are now an official organization, dissolving everything would be very costly. But that doesn’t matter to Holly and Lindsay, because they say that they won't ever stop doing what they do.

“We’re definitely going to go far,” Lindsay said. “We want to develop different branches wherever we can. It won't be our job, but we always want to do it. I’d also be up for selling the bracelets in school, if people want them.”

Do it, guys. According to these girls, there’s no feeling like helping these sick children.

“It’s sort of something I have to do,” Holly said. “I don’t know what I’d do if I wasn’t doing this—I wouldn’t want to do anything else. I mean, it’s sad, but there’s hope when a kid gets better, and seeing that eliminates all the sadness for a minute.”

“It saved my life in a way,” Lindsay agreed. “It puts everything into perspective. It’s like, even though we’re doing things for them, they do things for me, too. It gives me a real purpose in my life to know we can make a difference, and that makes a difference to me, too.”

To support Butterfly Kisses, go to www.butterflykissescarebaskets.com, or visit their Facebook at www.facebook.com/ButterflyKissesCareBaskets, or Twitter at www.twitter.com/butterflybasket.